

Message Text

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SUBJ: AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION WITH GREECE ON NUCLEAR
ENERGY

1. THE NEW AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION WITH GREECE ON ATOMIC
ENERGY WAS SUBMITTED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC
ENERGY ON JULY 14 WHERE, AS REQUIRED BY LAW, IT MUST LIE
FOR 30 DAYS. THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO HOLD HEARINGS ON
THIS AGREEMENT ON AUGUST 1 AND REQUESTED UNDER SECRETARY
SISCO TO TESTIFY INDICATING THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE
PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN WHY THE AGREEMENT WITH GREECE
DID NOT CONTAIN THE SPECIAL CONDITIONS WHICH HAD BEEN
INCORPORATED IN THE PROPOSED AGREEMENTS WITH EGYPT AND
ISRAEL.

2. THE LATTER AGREEMENTS IN ADDITION TO THE NORMAL
REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS CONTAIN A NUMBER
OF SPECIAL PROVISIONS REGARDING STORAGE, REPROCESSING AND
FABRICATION OF FUEL ELEMENTS, PHYSICAL SECURITY, BUY-BACK
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OF PLUTONIUM, DISCLAIMER OF USE FOR PNE'S, ETC., DESIGNED

TO REASSURE OURSELVES, THE CONGRESS, AND THE PUBLIC THAT THERE WERE NO LOOP-HOLES AVAILABLE THAT WOULD PERMIT MILITARY OR EXPLOSIVE APPLICATIONS TO DEVELOP AS A CONSEQUENCE OF COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES.

3. THE PRESS AND BOTH THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE HAVE HAD INTENSE REACTION TO THE PROPOSED INTRODUCTION BY THE

UNITED STATES OF LARGE SCALE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY INTO THE MID-EAST, IN LARGE MEASURE BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN A WAR ZONE AREA. THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE AEC, AS WELL AS SPECIALISTS FROM THE PRIVATE AREA, HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN AN ONGOING SERIES OF HEARINGS. IN ADDITION, THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS PROVIDED PRIVATE BRIEFINGS TO THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

4. IT WAS OUR JUDGMENT THAT PUBLIC HEARINGS BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE GREEK AGREEMENT AT THIS TIME COULD RESULT IN A COMPARABLE REACTION AND COULD WELL HAVE THE CONSEQUENCE OF FORCING US TO CANCEL OR MAKE MAJOR CHANGES IN THE AGREEMENT WITH GREECE. THEREFORE, A DECISION WAS MADE AND EXECUTED JULY 25 TO WITHDRAW THE AGREEMENT FROM THE JOINT COMMITTEE WHICH HAS THE EFFECT OF PLACING IT IN A STATE OF SUSPENSE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS IT IS RESUBMITTED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE. IN ANY CASE, THIS ACTION HAS NO EFFECT UPON THE PRESENT AGREEMENT WHICH WILL OF COURSE REMAIN IN FORCE. THE GREEK EMBASSY WAS INFORMED OF THIS ACTION THIS AFTERNOON. IT IS LIKELY THAT MEL PRICE, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE, WILL MAKE A BRIEF STATEMENT ON THE RECORD IN THE HOUSE TOMORROW TO THE EFFECT THAT THE AGREEMENT WAS WITHDRAWN TO PERMIT FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

5. FYI: WE DO NOT KNOW NOW WHEN IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO RESUBMIT THIS AGREEMENT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE OR WHETHER IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO RENEGOTIATE THE AGREEMENT TO ADD ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS A LA THOSE USED IN THE EGYPT AND ISRAEL AGREEMENTS. THIS WILL DEPEND ON THE EVOLUTION OF EVENTS IN GREECE AND CYPRUS AND ON THE COURSE OF CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST AND ACTIVITIES IN THE EGYPT/ISRAEL AGREEMENTS. END FYI.

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6. NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BY AEC OR STATE OF THIS WITHDRAWAL WILL BE MADE. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR USE BY THE AEC AND STATE IN THE EVENT OF QUERY.

"AN AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION CONCERNING CIVIL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY WAS NEGOTIATED WITH GREECE THIS SPRING AND APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT ON JUNE 29. THIS AGREEMENT

WHICH PROVIDES FOR NUCLEAR POWER APPLICATIONS IN GREECE
WILL SUPERSEDE WHEN IN EFFECT AN EARLIER AGREEMENT WHICH
PROVIDED FOR RESEARCH COOPERATION ONLY. ON JULY 15 THE
AGREEMENT WAS PLACED BEFORE THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC
ENERGY WHERE, AS REQUIRED BY LAW, IT MUST LIE FOR 30 DAYS.

IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT SITUATION THE AGREEMENT WAS
WITHDRAWN FROM THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY

ON JULY 25 TO PERMIT FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY THE
EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

7. EMBASSY REQUESTED INFORM GREEK GOVERNMENT IN LOW-KEY
FASHION AND PROVIDE REASSURANCE THAT THIS MOVE IS
TACTICAL ONLY, IS DESIGNED TO AVOID RISK OF LOSS OF
AGREEMENT, AND THAT WE INTEND TO PROCEED AS SOON AS IT
IS PRUDENT TO DO SO. INGERSOLL

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